

# LITTLE LEAGUE DISTRICT 2 SAFETY GUIDELINES

## No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 15 minutes.

## Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed. No team snacks should be provided post game.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., **MUST** wear protective face coverings when not on the field.
- Players under the age of 10 have the option to wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.
- Players over the age of 10 must wear face mask when not actively participating on the field or when 6' social distancing is not feasible.

- Players, managers/coaches, and umpires are not required to wear face masks while actively on the field during game play. When managers/coaches/umpires get less than 6' away from players or other adults, they should pull their mask up.
- Players will be permitted to wear a face mask on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.
- Face masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

## **Dugouts for Farm, American/National & Junior:**

- Managers/coaches and players of the 9/10 Farm, 11/12 American/National and 13/14 Junior league should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so they are at least six feet apart and must be placed behind a fence.
- There will be only 4 players allowed in the dugout at a time - one up-to-bat and the other 3 waiting their turn spaced 6' feet apart in the dugout.
- As each player comes off the field, the player will leave the field and go to a designated spot previously set out with social distancing to wait until his/her next time at bat.
- An area outside the dugout will be roped off where only players and one volunteer will be allowed.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Coaches will thoroughly pick up trash for disposal in the dugout and clean/sanitize before the next team is allowed to come in.

## **Dugouts for 4-yo T-ball, Modified T-ball & Coach Pitch:**

- Manager/coaches, volunteers and umpires must wear a face mask when not actively participating on the field or when 6' distance is not maintained.
- Players may all be in the dugout since the risk of infection is low at this age. However, any adult or person over the age of 10 in the dugout must keep a face mask on at all times.

## **Player Equipment:**

- No personal player bat bag/equipment bag will be allowed in the dugout (except for the 4-yo t-ball, MTB & CP). Player equipment will be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- All bats will be hung in the dugout before the game. Players hands will be sprayed with sanitizer before using the bats and after coming off the field.
- It is recommended all players have their own individual batter's helmet, glove and bat.
- If player does not have his/her own batting helmet, one will be provided from the league that will be sprayed with sanitizer before each use to avoid spreading of germs.
- Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment will be sprayed with an EPA-approved disinfectant/sanitizer against COVID-19. Increased attention will be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).

## **Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.:**

- **SUNFLOWER SEEDS, GUM, TOBACCO, ETC., ARE NOT ALLOWED IN DUGOUTS, PLAYING FIELD, OR ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES.**
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas playing field, or anywhere on the premises.

## **Pre-Game Plate Meetings:**

- Social distancing of six feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires.
- Plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires.
- No player can ever be a part of plate meetings.

## League/Game Volunteers:

- For each game, anyone in attendance must observe social distancing. Attendees should bring lawn chairs to sit on and will be allowed to sit along the fence in the bull pen area.
- A volunteer will be stationed outside the dugout to control the players coming in/out while on offense. Another volunteer will be stationed by the players outside the dugout to ensure their safety and social distance. Players (in older divisions) will be spaced six feet apart in a designated area while off the field on offense to maintain safety.
- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- Press boxes will remain locked during games and not be utilized except for a two-person limit at all times. *NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 13 ALLOWED IN THE PRESS BOX AT ALL.*

## Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- Fields should be mowed, raked, and lined prior to teams and spectators arriving at the complex and after they depart. It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game (managers/coaches, umpires, and league administrator) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site.
- It is recommended that any shared field preparation equipment be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

## Clean and Disinfect Shared Equipment and Surfaces:

- Frequently touched surfaces will be daily sprayed and disinfected in between all facility uses, including practices and games. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, facility equipment, dugouts, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

## Games:

- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 40 minutes before game time.
- If there is a game prior to your event, families and spectators will stay in their vehicles until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways. Until the previous game is over and proper clean-up is complete, players will

remain in their cars with their families and wait to be notified when to come to the field by the manager/coach through text to the parent/guardian.

- On-field warm-up will be limited as much as is reasonably possible.

## **Spectator Attendance:**

- All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; wear a face; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.
- Spectators should bring their own seating and will be allowed to sit along the fence in the bull pen area when available.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring disinfecting wipes/hand sanitizer with them.
- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- All siblings need to sit with their family and will not be permitted to roam the facility or play wall ball, etc.
- A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:
  - Active COVID-19 infection
  - Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
  - Fever
  - Cough
- Those at [higher risk for severe disease](#) should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:
  - Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
  - Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
  - Those over 65

## **Concession Stand:**

- Concession will be open and run by a third party. They will observe the Lubbock Food Prep Safety guidelines. District 2 Little League is not responsible for the concession or their practices.
- Refills will not be an option this season.
- There will be no free snow cones offered.
- Spectators may bring in their own outside food and drinks.

***THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES TO HELP KEEP OUR PLAYERS AND FAMILIES SAFE AND ABLE TO ENJOY BASEBALL!***